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16. — *Intermèdes et Poèmes*. Par HENRI BLAZE DE BURY. Paris: Michel Lévy Frères. 1859. 16mo. pp. 371.

THE first and longest of these pieces, "Jenny Plautin," is a story of French literary life, the leading incident of which is the heroine's committing suicide in order to start into activity and spur on to fame her husband's aspiring but unproductive genius. The device issues in making him a *roué*, and in degrading his ambition to the standard of his ability. Of course, anywhere but in France, where suicide is turned into a dramatic art, and life is held at a lower price than the most paltry whim, this plot would be absurd: there it is less strange, less incredible than well-authenticated facts of the same order have sometimes seemed. The characters in this metrical *nouvellette* are drawn with singular clearness of outline, and the heroine, notwithstanding her melodramatic exit from the stage, is a woman of surpassing nobleness of spirit, uniting strength and tenderness as they are seldom seen blended in actual life. The versification is smooth and harmonious, and the entire poem gives us a very high appreciation of the author's wealth of imagination and command of the resources of his language. The other pieces in the volume are of kindred merit, though less unique, or perhaps we should rather say less exclusively French, in the material from which they are elaborated.

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17. — *Modern Philology: its Discoveries, History, and Influence. With Maps, Tabular Views, and an Index*. By BENJAMIN W. DWIGHT, Author of "The Higher Christian Education." New York: A. S. Barnes and Burr. 1859. 8vo. pp. 354.

IN this book Mr. Dwight has expanded and elaborated into treatises, that must hold a permanent and honored place in the higher literature of our day, several articles which won distinguished regard in the *Bibliotheca Sacra* and the *New Englander*. Besides tabular views of languages in their classes and affiliations, and philological maps of Asia and Europe, drawn and collected with exquisite skill, and condensing a vast amount of erudition, the volume consists of three treatises. The first is an "Historical Sketch of the Indo-European Languages." Among the conclusions drawn by the author from the materials under his hand are the unity of the human race, and the Divine origin of language. For the first of these conclusions we cannot but regard the philological argument as by far the strongest, and, considered by itself alone, as decisive; while there are certain moral considerations as